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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1206
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4266
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4526
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9625
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2519
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3915
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9634
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0800
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001035

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DEPT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [KCRM](#) [NP](#)
SUBJECT: SUPPLIES DECREASE AS LAWLESSNESS INCREASES

REF: A. KATHMANDU 1029

[1](#)B. KATHMANDU 992

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Oil Stock Dangerously Low in Capital

[1](#)1. (C) Supply shortages continued on April 24, day nineteen of the seven party alliance's general strike and closure, and the fifth consecutive day-time curfew in Kathmandu. Although shops opened and closed before the 1100-1800 curfew, few supplies entered the Valley to replenish stocks (ref A). On April 24, the state-owned petroleum products' supplier Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) depot manager in Thankot, Kathmandu, told Emboff that he had 1,000 kiloliters of gasoline in stock, enough to last ten days at current rates and six days at the normal rate of 150 kiloliters per day. (Note: The April 24 English language daily, the Himalayan Times, reported NOC had only four days of oil stock left in Kathmandu, assuming the present low rate of consumption due to the ongoing general strike. End note.) Diesel demand had been low due to the strike, the Thankot manager said, and his depot had 3,500 kiloliters in stock, enough to last one month at a normal rate. The NOC official acknowledged that fuel trucks were arriving only "infrequently" via government escorted convoys and that the NOC had no back-up stock or emergency reserves. (Note: The NOC is in serious financial difficulties (ref B), having failed to make all its payments to the Indian Oil Corporation, its sole supplier of petroleum products. End note.) The U.S. Embassy's current supplies of fuel could last two to three weeks at current usage rates, but could run generators for only four days. The Embassy does not purchase fuel through NOC.

Medical Supplies Low

[1](#)2. (C) On April 24, the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights surveyed five hospitals in Kathmandu and learned that all hospitals were running low on supplies. Since April 20, the hospitals reported treating a total of 519 demonstration-related injuries. The Director of the Teaching Hospital told OHCHR that security forces were

sometimes obstructing their emergency vehicles, and that the hospital was having difficulty bringing their staff to and from work. He noted that "soon" his hospital would run out of supplies and would not be able to perform any surgery. The Embassy medical officer confirmed that supplies were short in the private hospitals she had contacted. She visited several pharmacies that were open during non-curfew hours, and found all had low stocks. She also noted that several of the Embassy's key referring physicians were in detention for having participated in ongoing political demonstrations.

Robbery Cases Increase in Valley

13. (C) Police in Kathmandu reported an increase in robbery cases when the curfew was not in effect, with five cases on April 21, and six cases on April 22. A police source told Emboff that while petty crime reports were down, the number of armed robberies was on the rise. The police noted a case in Kathmandu on April 21 where someone posing as a policeman entered a house and made off with 500,000 NR (7,140 USD). In another case, seven armed people overpowered six members of a household on April 22 and took 35,000 NR (500 USD). Police quoted the victim as saying "when I opened the door, they showed me a pistol and asked me to keep quiet."

Comment

14. (C) The quality of life for people living in Kathmandu continues to worsen as the general strike continues. We expect more people to join in demonstrations as cooking gas and other essential items become increasingly scarce.
MORIARTY